

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-04 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-04 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /087 W

----- 047600

R 282316 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 753

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL FRANCE

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0736

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MARR, VS CA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO EXTAFF MIN SHARP STATEMENT ON VIETNAM ICCS
PARTICIPATION

1. EXTAFF MIN SHARP HAS BEEN GIVEN QUALIFIED SUPPORT FROM THE OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) PARTY FOR DECISION TO INVOLVE CANADA IN ICCS FOR ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF 60-90 DAYS. ALTHOUGH TAKING LIBERAL GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR NOT CONSULTING PARLIAMENT PRIOR TO DECISION AND NOT HAVING BEEN STRICTER IN INSISTING THAT CONDITIONS FOR SERVICE BE MET, PC FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN WAGNER SAID HIS PARTY " SHARED THE MINISTER' S (SHARP' S) COMMITMENT TO CANADA' S ROLE IN AIDING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE IN INDOCHINA." WAGNER ALSO TOOK THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) TO TASK FOR PROPOSING THAT CANADA GIVE NOTICE NOW OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW AND " THEREBY LEAVE NOTHING BUT DESPAIR AS OUR LEGACY IN INDOCHINA".

2. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY DEFENCE CRITIC ROWLAND HAS
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DEFNDED HIS PARTY' S POSITION THAT CANADA GIVE NOTICE
NOW TO WITHDRAW FROM VIETNAM IN 90 DAYS AND EXPRESSED
" DOUBTS" OVER THE GOVERNMENT' S POSITION. ON MAR 28
VIETNAM AND CANADIAN ICCS PARTICIPATION WAS NOT EVEN RAISED
BY ANY OPPOSITION PARTY IN HOUSE COMMONS.

3. THE PRESS HAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT' S
DECISION STRESSING SHARP' S STATEMENT THAT CANADA WILL
NOT STAY BEYOND JUNE 30 " UNLESS THERE HAS BEEN SOME
SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT." ONE COLUMNIST IN THE TORONTO
GLOBE AND MAIL POINTS OUT THAT THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE
SITUATION IN VIETNAM LEFT THE GOVERNMENT LITTLE CHOICE
BUT TO DECIDE AS IT DID. A MONTREAL GAZETTE EDITORIAL
TAKES THE POSITION THAT " CANADA' S BLUFF HAS BEEN CALLED.
MINISTER SHAP HAS TURNED HIS BACK ON HIS OWN POLICY
BY AGREEING TO STAY ON IN VIETNAM." THE EDITORIAL
RELATES THE FRUSTRATION OF CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN
THE ICC AND THE ICCS AND CONCLUDES THAT " CANADA MUST
HAVE A TASTE FOR THE FARCIICAL."

4. BOTH THE GAZETTE AND THE OTTAWA CITIZEN STRESS
" INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE" AS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN
THE GOC DECISION. A CITIZEN EDITORIAL CONCLUDES,
HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECISION " IS A SENSIBLE
COMPROMISE." THE OTTAWA JOURNAL LAMENTS WHAT IT CALLS
" THE NON- DECISION" ON IVETNAM BUT CONCLUDES THAT THERE
IS STILL A FAIR HOPE THAT THE ICCS WILL REALIZE IT HAS
AN HONEST JOB TO DO.
JOHNSON

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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TAGS: MARR
To: BUDAPEST
EUR
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